

PRESS RELEASE

451 West Street, Suite 2
Amherst MA 01002-2999
Voice (413) 253-4300
Fax (413) 253-4347
TDD (413) 253-4590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2006

CONTACT: Maril Alsup

Public Affairs Specialist

(413) 253-4314

maril.alsup@ma.usda.gov

Redding Wastewater Treatment Plant Renovation Gets Started with \$5 Million Check from USDA Rural Development

Georgetown, CT –USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle arrived at the Redding Wastewater Treatment Plant on North Main Street in Georgetown today with a \$5 million check in hand. The federal funds were presented to the Georgetown Special Taxing District and will be used to renovate the Redding Wastewater Treatment facility. The renovation will increase treatment capacity at the plant from 75,000 gallons per day to 245,000 gallons per day. The upgrades are part of the Georgetown Land Development Companies' larger Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill redevelopment project which will revitalize the former industrial site. Joining Mr. Tuttle and representatives of the Georgetown Special Taxing District for the ceremony were Redding First Selectman Natalie Ketcham and members of the Redding Water Pollution Control Commission.

Redevelopment of the former Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill will combine and include a variety of uses such as market rate residential housing; affordable senior housing; artist style lofts; the return of the Georgetown Train Station; a community theater, commercial, retail and office space; and other public and community facilities.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Treasury Department designated the Georgetown Special Taxing District a qualified green building and sustainable design project allowing the Taxing District to issue more than \$72 million in special tax-exempt bonds.

Stephen M. Soler, President of the Georgetown Special Taxing District, accepted the ceremonial check from USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle. "We are very pleased with USDA's support of this project and their assistance in helping finance the renovations. Once completed, this facility will be the most advanced, state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility in the area," said Mr. Soler.

Mark Javello, Chairman of the Georgetown Water Pollution Control Authority, part of the Georgetown Special Taxing District, echoed Mr. Soler's comments and added, "Special thanks go to our Congressional Delegation for supporting this federal program."

USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Programs provide loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas, and cities and towns of 10,000 or less. The goal of the federal program is to improve the quality of life and promote economic development in rural America.

"This funding is key to help increase the plant's capacity, to serve the redeveloped area," said Congressman Christopher Shays of the USDA loan. "We are grateful of the support for what will become a model community and a model for sustainable, community-based development"

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans. USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. In Fiscal Year 2005, USDA Rural Development provided over \$28 million in assistance to Connecticut's rural communities and families.

###

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800)795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).